

Graduate Assistantship in Human Dimensions of Coastal Resource Management, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University

A Ph.D. graduate assistantship in human dimensions of coastal resource management in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University may be available Fall 2015, contingent upon funding. The applicant will be expected to fulfill all Department and University requirements for a graduate degree in a timely manner, conduct original applied research related to human dimensions of coastal resource management, participate in Department and University activities, collaborate with Michigan Sea Grant Extension Program, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, and other stakeholders.

Position Description: This research addresses the need to understand stewardship motivations and shared governance for Great Lakes coastal-based wildlife management for waterfowl hunting, bird watching, and community development. Waterfowl hunters invest in conservation and wildlife management via purchases of hunting licenses, duck stamps, and other hunting equipment. Great Lakes coastal wildlife management areas, purchased and managed with funds generated with hunting-related revenue are also destination locations for non-hunters seeking to watch birds. Coastal communities also benefit from the waterfowl hunting and bird watching activities occurring at or near aquatic-based state wildlife management areas. As the numbers of bird watchers increase and waterfowl hunters decrease, the current model of conservation and livelihoods of coastal communities are at risk due to declining investments in wildlife management over the long-term. Research is needed to identify stewardship motivations and shared governance for the conservation of aquatic-based wildlife management along the Great Lakes coastline. Such research can inform needs and opportunities for shared governance of wildlife resources, as well as coastal community economic development around aquatic-based state wildlife management areas.

Objectives for this research are to:

1. Compare demographics, attitudes, and preferences of waterfowl hunters, bird watchers, and community leaders for stewardship of state wildlife management areas along Great Lakes coasts;
2. Analyze community planning needs and opportunities using state wildlife management areas along Great Lakes coasts as a hub for ecological and economic activity;
3. Identify possible mechanisms for shared governance of aquatic-based wildlife resources along Great Lakes coasts; and
4. Identify goals, develop, pilot test, and evaluate a prototype stakeholder engagement module that addresses key issues in the conservation, wildlife management, and community economic development aspects in areas adjacent to state wildlife management areas along Great Lakes coasts.

This project will be developed in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division.

Qualifications and Application Instructions: Competitive applicants will be highly motivated and independent, have some experience with human dimensions of fisheries and wildlife or coastal resources management, have some statistical and GIS background, be willing to work collaboratively with Michigan Sea Grant and its stakeholders, be willing to engage with the Department, MSU Extension, the University, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Preference will be given to applicants with community outreach experience and who have a master's degree and who have published. Interested individuals should email Dr. Heather Triezenberg as soon as possible. Please provide the following materials: 1) cover letter describing general research interests and specific experiences; 2) brief statement of professional goals; 3) resume; 4) transcripts (unofficial ok at first; official needed later); and 6) list of three references with contact information (email, phone, address); and 6) GRE and TOEFL scores (unofficial ok at first; official needed later), if available.

Michigan State University (MSU) has been transforming lives through its innovative teaching, research, and outreach for more than 150 years. **MSU Extension** has been applying research from MSU to help Michigan residents solve everyday problems for more than 100 years. **Michigan Sea Grant** has been helping foster economic growth and protection of Michigan's coastal and Great Lakes resources through education, research, and outreach for more than 30 years. The **Department of Fisheries and Wildlife** at MSU has been providing education, research, and outreach needed by society for the conservation and rehabilitation of fish and wildlife resources and their ecosystems for more than 60 years.

Please direct correspondence to:

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